Estimate of Export-Import Trade

*166. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimate of export-import trade during the current as well as during the next two years in rupee and dollar currencies ;

(b) whether it will be possible for India to have surplus foreign trade in the near future ; and

(c) whether our foreign trade would increase in terms of percentage with developing countries in our overall foreign trade ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) An export target of US $ 22138 milllon (Rs. 70842 crores) has been fixed for the current year 1993-94 representing an increase of about 20% (32% in rupee terms) over the actual exports during 1992-93. The export targets for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 have not been fixed. Imports are made as per requirements and no targets are set.

(b) During the period April-January 1993-94 trade deficit has come down to US $ 582 million (Rs. 1824 crores) as compared to US $ 3596 million (Rs. 10284 crores) in the corresponding period of the last year. If this trend continues there is likelihood of our achieving a viable balance of trade.

(c) It is our endeavour to increase and diversify foreign trade, including that with developing countries.

Strength of Employment Exchanges in the Country

*167. VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what is the strength of employment exchanges in the country as on date;

(b) whether the number is sufficient to cater to the need of the unemployed persons who have not registered their names ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revamp the network in the near future;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) According to the available information, as on date there are 887 employment exchanges in the country which are functioning under the administrative and financial control of the respective State Governments/Union Territories. The jurisdiction of each of the existing exchange has been defined so as to cover the entire country except the State of Sikkim where no employment exchange is functioning. The Central Government is not aware of any demand from any individual/society for setting up of more employment exchanges.

The State Governments/UT Administrations keep the functioning of employment exchanges under review for improving efficiency.

Trade with Pakistan

*68. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY :

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the commodities that are being exported to Pakistan;

(b) the commodities which are imported from Pakistan ;

(c) whether recent increase in tension between the two countries has adversely affected our trade with Pakistan ;

(d) what steps are being taken to boost our trade with Pakistan; and

(e) what is India's policy with respect to trade with Pakistan ?